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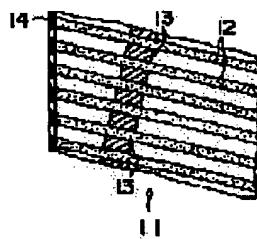
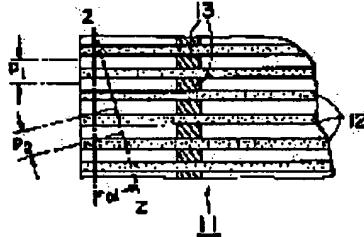
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(54) INK JET PRINTER**(57)Abstract:**

PURPOSE: To adopt an identical head to a multiple kinds of printers having different dot densities by a method wherein a head is supported by a moving/ scanning means such that each nozzle opening end of the head is opposed to a recording medium having the same gap therebetween.

CONSTITUTION: An opening end of a head unit 11 is cut along a line inclined from arrangement direction of channels shown by Z-Z line at a desired angle α . That is, the head unit is processed such that nozzle opening ends are arranged on a plane diagonally across the channels. The inclination angle α is determined in accordance with each dot density of different kinds of printers or plotters so that an arrangement pitch of the nozzle openings is set to P2. A nozzle plate 14 having nozzle holes with prescribed diameters is adhered with the cutting face of the head of which nozzle opening ends are diagonally cut and processed like the above explained. As a result, the head unit 11 is made which can be adopted to different kinds of printers or plotters each having the nozzle opening pitch P2.

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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] The head which connected the other end side to the ink source of supply while having arranged in parallel two or more long and slender channels which are mutually separated by the septum and form a pressure generating room and using the end side of these channels as the nozzle orifice edge, A migration scan means to make this head displaced relatively to a predetermined scanning direction to a record medium in support of the condition of having made this head countering a record medium, In the ink jet printer equipped with the head driving means which drives each channel of said head following a picture signal It constitutes so that it may be arranged in the direction which inclines at the include angle which set up said head according to dot density to the direction where the longitudinal direction of each channel and the nozzle orifice edge of each of that channel cross at right angles. And the ink jet printer characterized by making said migration scan means come to support in the condition that each of that nozzle orifice edge holds the same gap, and counters this head to said record medium.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Industrial Application] This invention is equipped with two or more nozzles, and relates to the ink jet printer using the ink jet print head of the dot mold on demand which records by injecting ink alternatively from these nozzles according to a picture signal.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] In the printer which used the ink jet print head of a dot mold on demand, it is a high speed, and in order to realize image recording of high density and to offer cheap equipment moreover, it is required to enable it to manufacture easily the head which arranged many nozzles by high density.

[0003] As a head which fills this demand, what is conventionally shown in JP,57-169364,A is known. This head consists of an exoergic resistor installation substrate 300 and a plate 308 with a slot.

[0004] Drawing 16 is what showed the configuration of the exoergic resistor installation substrate 300, and this exoergic resistor installation substrate 300 is created by forming common electrode 304a and selection electrode 304b-1-304b-4 while it forms the exoergic resistor 303-1 to 303-4 of constant width by selective etching, after carrying out laminating formation of the accumulation layer 302, the exoergic resistive layer 303, and the aluminum electrode layer 304 on the alumina substrate 301 at order. On the other hand, drawing 17 is what showed the configuration of the plate 308 with a slot, and this plate 308 with a slot is created by carrying out cutting formation of the slot used as the common ink room 307 while it uses a micro cutter etc. for a glass plate 305 and carries out cutting formation of two or more slots (channel) 306-1 to 306-4 by width of face equal to the formation width of face of the above-mentioned exoergic resistor 303-1 to 303-4.

[0005] And the exoergic resistor installation substrate 300 and the plate 308 with a slot which were created by doing in this way are mutually joined, where the alignment of the exoergic resistor 303-1 to 303-4 and slot 306-1 to 306-4 is made. Thereby, in a head, two or more channels which make a long and slender groove are formed in parallel at fixed spacing. In the end side of these channels, it is cut to an even length in the direction which intersects perpendicularly with the longitudinal direction of each channel, and this end face serves as ink injection nozzle opening. On the other hand, the other end side of each above-mentioned channel is open for free passage in the common ink room 307 within a head, and the ink installation tubing 309-1,309-2 for introducing ink into this common ink room 307 from the ink feed zone which is not illustrated is connected. Drawing 18 is the perspective view showing the configuration of this head.

[0006] In driving such a head, by supplying ink in a head through the ink installation tubing 309-1,309-2 from an ink feed zone, the inside of each channel is filled with water color ink, and it impresses a driving pulse signal alternatively between a common electrode and a selection electrode according to a picture signal in this condition. If it does so, the exoergic resistor corresponding to the electrode with which the driving pulse signal was impressed will generate heat, an ink solvent will evaporate with the heat in an instant, and ink will inject from a nozzle with the pressure by this.

[0007] In such a head, the upper limit of the array consistency of a nozzle and the number of nozzles is decided by process tolerance of the channel and electrode which are processed into the plate 308 with a slot, and an exoergic resistor. However, these processings are comparatively simple, and since densification is easy, they can realize the print head of high density cheaply.

[0008] In addition, when sufficient process tolerance over the above-mentioned slot, an electrode, and an exoergic resistor is not acquired, it is indicated by the Society of Electrophotography of Japan volume [32nd] No. 2 150 pages that it is good to stick on the outlet edge, i.e., the nozzle orifice edge, of a channel the plate which made the hole in the plastic sheet by laser beam machining.

[0009] It is British Industrial News 9/92 as another example of the print head which processes a majority of two or more channels in parallel, and makes each channel a pressure generating room on the other hand. What used deformation of the piezo-electric element by electric field for 9 pages as a principle of pressure generating is indicated. Drawing 19 is the perspective view showing the configuration.

[0010] That is, 401 is the substrate created for the material which has a piezoelectric effect, and the slot 402 is formed in this substrate 401. 403 is the septum. The closure of the top face is carried out by the member 404, and, thereby, as for the slot 402, chain flannel is formed. A nozzle plate 405 is arranged by the end of this channel, and, thereby, a nozzle orifice train is formed. On the other hand, the other end side of a channel is open for free passage into the ink supply slot 406. The electrode which is not illustrated is formed in the side attachment wall 403. And if

the pulse signal according to a picture signal is impressed to this electrode from the drive circuit 407, a side attachment wall 403 will be distorted and ink will be injected by that stress from a nozzle orifice.

[0011]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] Each print head described above can be manufactured to high density with high precision and efficiently processing using master patterns, such as etching, and by using tools of dedication, such as a multiple disk cutter.

[0012] However, there were the following technical problems which should be solved in the conventional printer using such a print head. That is, there are a printer which generally mainly prints out an alphabetic character, and a printer for performing the plotter for printing out a drawing and a copy as printer. Among these, a print is performed, for example with the dot density of 180 or 360DPI by the printer which prints out the former alphabetic character. On the other hand, a print is performed, for example with the dot density of 200 or 400DPI by the printer which prints out the latter drawing etc. It is very economical, if one kind of head can be included in both printers when producing two or more sorts of printers by which such dot densities differ.

[0013] However, said conventional head will be beforehand determined by the formation pitch of the channel pitch fang furrow, an electrode, and an exoergic resistor fixed. For this reason, when manufacturing two or more sorts of printers by which dot densities differ, according to that dot density, the head of dedication must be manufactured, respectively for every printer. In order to manufacture the print head from which this channel pitch differs, the tool of dedication according to many the mask patterns for etching and processing pitches is required respectively, and the rise of manufacture cost is not avoided.

[0014] This invention was made paying attention to the above-mentioned situation, the place made into the purpose enables it to apply the same head to two or more sorts of printers by which dot densities differ only by performing easy processing, and it is in offering the ink jet printer which can aim at reduction of manufacture cost by this.

[0015]

[Means for Solving the Problem] In order to attain the above-mentioned purpose, this invention arranges in parallel two or more long and slender channels which are mutually separated by the septum and form a pressure generating room. The head which connected the other end side to the ink source of supply while using the end side of these channels as the nozzle orifice edge, A migration scan means to make this head displaced relatively to a predetermined scanning direction to a record medium in support of the condition of having made this head countering a record medium, In the ink jet printer equipped with the head driving means which drives each channel of the above-mentioned head following a picture signal It constitutes so that it may be arranged in the direction which inclines at the include angle which set up the above-mentioned head according to dot density to the direction where the longitudinal direction of each channel and the nozzle orifice edge of each of that channel cross at right angles. And it constitutes so that the condition that each of that nozzle orifice edge holds the same gap, and counters to the above-mentioned record medium may be made to support this head for the above-mentioned migration scan means.

[0016]

[Function] As a result, according to this invention, it becomes possible to change the array pitch of each nozzle orifice edge into arbitration only by changing whenever [tilt-angle / of the array direction of each nozzle orifice end line]. Therefore, a head applicable to two or more sorts of printers by which dot densities differ only by performing easy processing for carrying out adjustable [of the include angle of the array direction of the above-mentioned nozzle orifice end line] to one kind of head which has a predetermined channel pitch can be manufactured. For this reason, the manufacture cost of a head can be reduced and it enables this to attain low-pricing of a printer.

[0017]

[Example]

(The 1st example) Drawing 1 is drawing showing the whole ink jet printer configuration concerning the 1st example of this invention. In this drawing, 1 is a recording paper roll, and the recording paper 2 pulled out from this recording paper roll 1 is led to the conveyance roller 4 and a pinch roller 5, after being guided by the guide idler 3 and regulating a transit location in the platen 7 of the suction box 6 further. A rotation drive is carried out by the vertical-scanning motor 18 which consists of a step motor, and the conveyance roller 4 pinches the above-mentioned recording paper 2, and it is made it to carry out vertical-scanning migration in step.

[0018] 8 and 8 are the guide rails of a pair and are arranged in parallel to the recording surface of the recording paper 2. The migration horizontal-scanning base 9 is supported by these guide rails 8 and 8 free [migration] through the bearing, and the MARUCHINOZURU on-demand ink jet print head (a head is only called henceforth) 10 is being fixed on this migration horizontal-scanning base 9. Moreover, 15 and 15 are the pulleys of a pair, it is built over a wire 16 between these pulleys 15 and 15, and the end of this wire is being fixed to the grip 17 of the above-mentioned migration horizontal-scanning base 9. The shaft of one pulley of the above-mentioned pulleys 15 and 15 is connected with the horizontal-scanning motor 19, and the pulley of another side carries out follower rotation. Therefore, by carrying out both-way rotation of the horizontal-scanning motor 19, the head 10 carried on the migration horizontal-scanning base 9 reciprocates to the recording surface of the recording paper 2, and, thereby, horizontal scanning is performed.

[0019] 20 is a source of a print subject-copy signal, and after a picture signal is changed into the gestalt of a raster picture signal by this source 20 of a print subject-copy signal, it is inputted into the write-in circuit 21. The write-in circuit 21 writes the above-mentioned picture signal in the bit map memory 22. The picture signal written in this bit map memory 22 is read according to the address sequence and timing specified by the read-out circuit 23 at the time of a print, and is supplied to the print head driver 26. The print head driver 26 carries out the energization drive

of each channel of a head 10 according to the above-mentioned picture signal.

[0020] 27 and 28 are horizontal-scanning Motor Driver and vertical-scanning Motor Driver, respectively, and these Motor Driver 27 and 28 carries out the rotation drive of the horizontal-scanning motor 19 and the vertical-scanning motor 18 according to control of a control circuit 29, respectively.

[0021] By the way, the head unit 11 of the above-mentioned head 10 is constituted as follows. Drawing 2 is the part plan showing the configuration of the exoergic resistor installation substrate. The long and slender channel is arranged by two or more juxtaposition on the substrate. These channels are mutually divided by side attachment walls 12 and 12 and —, and, thereby, each forms the ink pressure generating room. Moreover, the exoergic resistors 13 and 13 and — are prepared in each channel, respectively, and when the energization drive of these exoergic resistors 13 and 13 and — is carried out by the print head driver 26, it is injected from the nozzle orifice which ink is evaporated and is mentioned later. The above-mentioned channel is the same as dot density p of a request in the direction of vertical scanning, or is processed in the pitch of the integral multiple. At the example of illustration, it is a pitch p1 It is shown. This pitch p1 It is set up so that it may correspond to the dot density which the general-purpose printer and the general-purpose plotter have.

[0022] Now, such an array pitch p1 Along with the line which inclined at an angle of [alpha] the request to the array direction of each channel on it as it carried out as follows, namely, was shown in a z=z line when dot density manufactured the printer which suits the different printer or different plotter of another kind from the printer of the above-mentioned general purpose, or a plotter based on the head which it has, cutting processing of the nozzle orifice one end end face of the above-mentioned head unit 11 is carried out. That is, it is processed so that a nozzle orifice edge may arrange each channel on the flat surface crossed aslant. Here, whenever [above-mentioned tilt-angle], alpha responds to the printer of the above-mentioned another kind, or the dot density of a plotter, and the array pitch of a nozzle orifice is p2. It is set up so that it may become. And the nozzle plate 14 with which a nozzle orifice end face has nozzle opening of predetermined magnitude in the cutting plane of the head by which cutting processing was carried out in the direction of slant as shown at drawing 3 is stuck in this way. In this way, it is the nozzle orifice pitch p2. The head unit 11 which suits the printer or plotter of the above-mentioned another kind which it had is produced.

[0023] And on the migration horizontal-scanning base 9, it is positioned and this head unit 11 is fixed so that the gap between that each nozzle orifice end face and recording paper 2 may become fixed. Drawing 4 is the side elevation showing the condition of the head 10 after this immobilization.

[0024] Thus, if constituted, it will be set as the location where the array location of a nozzle orifice edge inclined at the predetermined include angle alpha to the array direction of a channel. For this reason, array pitch p2 of this nozzle orifice As shown in drawing 2, it is the channel array pitch p1 of the head itself. It will become big. Therefore, channel array pitch p1 It is p2 if it was a nozzle pitch corresponding to 200DPI. The dot density of 180DPI or 150DPI can be adjusted. Moreover, p1 It is p2 when it corresponds to 180DPI. It can carry out and can consider as the value corresponding to 150DPI.

[0025] Therefore, if it is this example, it is the channel array pitch p1 of arbitration. The general-purpose head which it has is used as it is, whenever [tilt-angle / which set up the nozzle orifice side edge side of this head according to the dot density of a printer], by alpha, only by carrying out cutting processing, the printer or plotter of another kind from which dot density differs was suited, and head production can be carried out. For this reason, without changing, the fundamental processing process for forming a channel only adds the cutting processing process of a nozzle orifice edge, can produce a head variously simply and cheaply, and becomes possible [offering cheaply two or more sorts of ink jet printers with which dot densities differ by this].

[0026] In addition, by having made the nozzle orifice end face incline from the direction which intersects perpendicularly with the shaft of a channel, and having arranged it, the die length of a channel part changes with the locations for every nozzle, or the die length from a nozzle orifice end face to the part of an exoergic resistor comes to differ. however — the ink jet printer of a method on demand — turning on and off of a dot — a print — a line — for a ** reason, even if an un-**** element is in the configuration of the above-mentioned channel part, nonuniformity which trouble produces in the expression of an alphabetic character or a line is not generated.

[0027] When (the 2nd example) and time print a thing like a solid black image, even if it is the nonuniformity of the size of few dots, if it gathers and exists in a specific location, it will come to be viewed as nonuniformity. With the equipment of this invention, since a print is performed by the nozzle array pitch of a head by making a band-like field long to a main scanning direction into one unit, the phenomenon in which an other end side serves as [the end side of the cross direction of the band] low concentration by high concentration is seen, it is viewed as a band, i.e., banding, and degradation of image quality is caused.

[0028] So, in this example, generating of such fault is prevented as follows. Drawing 5 shows the whole ink jet printer configuration concerning this example. In addition, in this drawing, the same sign is given to the same part as said drawing 1, and detailed explanation is omitted.

[0029] That is, by the printer of this example, additional installation of the pulse amendment command circuit 24 is carried out. This pulse amendment command circuit 24 has the function which amends the wave of the driving pulse supplied to each channel of a head 10 according to the nozzle location of a head 10 from the print head driver 26.

[0030] For example, explanation of the case where a print head is what injects ink according to deformation of the piezo-electric element which constitutes a channel as shown in drawing 19 injects only the ink of a small amount by having impressed the same driver voltage in the nozzle to which the dimension of a channel became short as shown in drawing 2. Then, the effective length of a channel is made to correspond, and when effective length drives a short channel, it amends so that high driver voltage or a driving pulse with wide pulse width may be impressed. Since it is

decided according to the nozzle location of a print head, this amount of amendments is memorized in the memory of the pulse amendment command circuit 24 beforehand in quest of the amount of amendments corresponding to each nozzle location, and is realized by amending actuation of the print head driver 26 based on the amount of amendments memorized by this memory.

[0031] Since the electrical-potential-difference value or pulse width of a driving pulse supplied to each nozzle is amended for every nozzle with such an example, even if it is the head which arranged each nozzle orifice edge in the direction of slant, dispersion in the ink injection property between each nozzle can be abolished, and, thereby, high quality can be printed.

[0032] In addition, the component parameter of a power circuit or a drive circuit may be changed so that it may be supplied as a value by which the electrical potential difference supplied, for example to the driver component corresponding to each nozzle as an amendment means was beforehand amended for every component.

[0033] (The 3rd example) Although dispersion in the ink injection property between nozzles was amended in the 2nd example of the above by carrying out an adjustable setup of the electrical potential difference or pulse width of a driving pulse, amendment is possible also by devising the structure of the head itself. This example shows the example.

[0034] That is, with the head 30 which used the piezo-electric element, as shown, for example in drawing 6 and drawing 7, the multi-thread slot is formed on the piezo sheet 31. These slots are mutually divided with the side attachment wall 32, and the electrode 33 is made on these side attachment walls 32. Moreover, each above-mentioned slot is blockaded by the cover sheet 34, and a slot serves as a channel filled with ink by this. The closure is carried out by the nozzle plate 35 which processed the nozzle 36, and, thereby, the nozzle orifice edge is formed by the end side of each channel. Moreover, the ink supply slot 37 which supplies ink to each channel is established in the other end of each channel, and the ink feed hopper 38 for supplying ink from the exterior is connected to this ink supply slot 37.

[0035] By the way, the above-mentioned nozzle orifice edge has a predetermined tilt angle to the array direction of each channel, cutting is aslant carried out, and the nozzle plate 35 is stuck on this inclination end face. Moreover, the electrode 33 formed on each side attachment wall 32 is not that of *****, but is the dimension doubled with the side attachment wall of the channel of the shorter one, and is prepared in the overall length of a side attachment wall 32 by the same die length to all the side attachment walls 32. In addition, the arrow head D shown in drawing 7 shows the direction of polarization.

[0036] It is ** which a piezo-electric element is used for the head of such a configuration, changes [head] the volume of a channel using the side attachment wall of a piezo plate bending in polarization and the direction of a right angle when this kind of head impresses driver voltage between the two electrodes 33 whose side attachment walls 32 are pinched, and makes ink inject according to this force. That is, only the side-attachment-wall part corresponding to the electrode 33 prepared in the side attachment wall 32 of a piezo plate deforms. For this reason, even if merits and demerits arise to the die length of each channel by having arranged each nozzle opening aslant, if the dimension of an electrode 33 is fixed like the head of this example, it will become fixed [the injection quantity of ink]. It becomes unnecessary for this reason, to perform electric amendment which was stated in said 2nd example.

[0037] (The 4th example) With the head of this invention, since the pitch between nozzles becomes large to the array pitch of a channel so that the tilt angle of a nozzle opening end face becomes large, the head which has the optimal nozzle array pitch according to the dot density of a print head is producible by choosing the above-mentioned tilt angle as arbitration. However, if a tilt angle becomes large too much, the difference from a fundamental print head without an inclination will become large too much, and similarity will be lost gradually.

[0038] Then, in spite of changing dot density a lot to the correspondence dot density of a fundamental print head, the configuration which does not not much increase the inclination of a print head nozzle side is needed.

[0039] This example is fixed to the condition that the nozzle configuration reference axis of a print head inclines to the direction of vertical scanning, on a migration scan base paying attention to this point. Drawing 9 thru/or drawing 11 show the configuration.

[0040] That is, as shown in the front view of drawing 9, the nozzle plate 40 is attached in the nozzle end face of a print head 10. Along with array reference-axis x-x, alignment arrangement of two or more nozzle orifices is carried out at the nozzle plate 40. In addition, although a nozzle may be arranged two-dimensional in order to make the array of a nozzle easy, the reference axis which carries out alignment arrangement of two or more nozzle orifices even in such a case exists. In the usual case, this reference axis is made in agreement in the direction of vertical scanning, and it is set in the direction which intersects perpendicularly with a main scanning direction, and when it has arranged in the direction of a parenthesis, the nozzle is made so that it may be arranged in the pitch of a request in the direction of vertical scanning.

[0041] On the other hand, by the printer of this example, the inclination susceptor 42 is formed so that reference-axis x-x of a nozzle configuration may be leaned and supported in the recording paper 2 and the field which counters, as shown in drawing 10. Since the nozzle configuration side of a print head inclines to the direction which intersects perpendicularly with the longitudinal shaft of a channel so that it may explain to it and coincidence later at a detail, a print head unit is attached in the direction in which a channel shaft inclines to head susceptor. Drawing 11 is the side elevation of a print head 10. In this drawing, since the nozzle configuration side of the print head unit 41 is supported so that it may become parallel to the recording surface of the detail paper 2, channel shaft z-z receives horizontally, inclines and is attached.

[0042] Next, rotation of the head 10 for dot density modification and the inclination of a nozzle configuration side are explained using drawing 12. In this drawing, 41 shall show a print head unit and n1-n10 shall show a nozzle

location. Each nozzle shall be arranged with the predetermined dot density p_1 ($p_1 = 0.141$ millimeter), for example, the pitch corresponding to 180DPI. In addition, $x-x$ is the reference axis of a nozzle configuration, X is a main scanning direction and Y is the direction of vertical scanning.

[0043] In order to share the element of this print head and to realize the printer of the dot density of 200DPI or 400DPI, it explains taking the case of the case where the print head unit 41 is leaned.

[0044] if reference-axis $x-x$ is leaned — a nozzle — a main scanning direction X and the direction Y of vertical scanning — receiving — a pitch fixed [both] — alienation — it comes to be arranged. And in order to enable it to drive each nozzle to the same timing, it is the nozzle pitch p_2 of a main scanning direction X . It must be 1 for the integral multiple of desired print dot density, or an integer.

[0045] It is p_2 as what performs the print of 200DPI or 400DPI in the example of drawing 12. It shall lean to the location which indicates that reference-axis $x-x$ becomes 0.0635 millimeters to (a) of drawing 12. Consequently, nozzle pitch p_3 of the direction Y of vertical scanning It becomes 0.1259 millimeters and becomes short slightly from the pitch 0.127 of 200DPI. When the number of nozzles is formed into a multi-nozzle to many numbers of nozzles like 64 nozzles, 128 nozzles, and 256 nozzles, an accumulation difference becomes 1 or more dots, and it becomes impossible to disregard this error, although a gap of the pitch between each nozzle is a dimension small and disregarded to a request value.

[0046] Then, nozzle pitch p_2 of a main scanning direction X It leaves as it is, and if it does so, the nozzle configuration at this time will be attained by the nozzle which is carried out to having made it become 0.127 millimeters corresponding to the dot density of a request of the nozzle pitch of the direction Y of vertical scanning, for example, 200DPI, and which is shown by the dotted line in the location of (b) of drawing 12 in reference-axis $x-x$.

[0047] Therefore, in this case, the required nozzle unit was the nozzle shown by the dotted line, it was made to rotate in the direction Y of vertical scanning, and 41' illustrated the reference axis of this nozzle. It will become 0.142 millimeters if pitch p_1 between the nozzles at this time is calculated.

[0048] Since the nozzle pitch corresponding to 180DPI is 0.141 millimeters, the difference becomes only 0.001 millimeters. However, in the print head which gathered 64 nozzles, a cumulative error is 0.064 millimeters, and in 1 dot at the time of the print of 400DPI, when 128 nozzles are gathered, it is equivalent to 2 dots.

[0049] Then, in order to amend this error, as drawing 2 explained previously, the array side of a nozzle is made to incline to the direction which intersects perpendicularly with the shaft of a channel, and the pitch between nozzles is expanded to 0.142 millimeters from 0.141 millimeters. The tilt angle at this time is 6.8 degrees.

[0050] It sets for the above-mentioned example of count, and is the pitch p_2 of a main scanning direction X . It is 0.0635 millimeters corresponding to 400DPI. For this reason, what is necessary is to be able to inject ink from all nozzles to coincidence, when printing 400DPI, but to divide into the nozzle group in every other one, and just to constitute so that each group may be driven by turns in printing 200DPI.

[0051] The pitch between nozzles of a main scanning direction is equal to desired print dot density, or if it is the integral multiple, it can be printed by carrying out the coincidence drive of all the nozzles. Since the effectiveness of a print gets it very bad that all nozzles are divided into n times as it is the pitch of $1/n$ of a desired print pitch, and it must stop having to drive, and n is two or more, it is not desirable.

[0052] When ink is exhausted in an ink jet printer in (the 5th example) and time, it becomes impossible to print. In such a case, with the head of the type used for ink, exchanging for a new head and supplying with the cartridge head which formed ink and a nozzle into 1 body, it must supply appropriately.

[0053] When a print is a defect, if you do not notice it, the former data of a print may disappear and the damage has a remarkable thing. Moreover, in the thing of the type which fills up ink, and repeats and uses a print head, if the residue of ink becomes below predetermined level, the problem of it becoming impossible to eliminate air from an ink supply way, and it becoming impossible to inject ink again, even if it fills up ink after it will arise. In order to prevent generating of problems, such as this, it is a very important technical problem to detect the residue of ink and to generate the alarm signal [exhausting / ink].

[0054] Since the ink which uses water as a solvent was conventionally used as ink for ink jet printers, what uses the conductivity of ink as a residue detection means of ink was used. That is, the electrode of a pair is placed into an ink container and it detects that inter-electrode conductivity is lost as ink being exhausted. However, if the ink which is the solvent of a non-drainage system and consists of an insulating solvent comes to be used instead of water-soluble ink, the effective and simple detection means which it becomes impossible to use the detection means based on the conventional conductivity, and is replaced with this is demanded.

[0055] Then, in this example, residue detection of ink is enabled as follows. Drawing 13 (a) and (b) show the configuration of the jet ink container concerning this example.

[0056] That is, the ink outflow opening 51 is formed in the lower limit pars basilaris ossis occipitalis of the ink container 50, and this opening 51 is open for free passage to the ink jet nozzle 52. The cap 53 is formed in the upper part of the ink container 50, and the air induction inlet 54 is established in this cap. Moreover, the piezoelectric-device mold pressure sensor 56 is attached in the container wall part in a location higher than the pars-basilaris-ossis-occipitalis ink outflow opening 51. In addition, the filter 55 is formed in the inlet port of the ink outflow opening 51, and it has prevented that air and a foreign matter are sent to an ink jet-nozzle side with this filter 55.

[0057] The piezoelectric-device mold pressure sensor 56 is constituted as shown in drawing 14. The part shown with the alternate long and short dash line in drawing is a sensor 60. This sensor 60 attaches electrodes 62, 63, and 64 on a piezoelectric device 61, and joins them to the diaphragm side whose whole is not illustrated. If an alternation electrical potential difference is impressed between an electrode 62 and an electrode 64, a piezoelectric device 61

will vibrate and an electrical potential difference will occur between an electrode 62 and 63 based on the deformation. If this electrical potential difference is amplified and it feeds back between an electrode 64 and 62, it will vibrate with the resonance frequency of the pressure-sensitive part which consists of a diaphragm and a piezoelectric device 61, and an oscillatory wave form will be acquired from Terminal A.

[0058] If a diaphragm is dipped in liquids, such as ink, in this condition, the resonance frequency of a diaphragm will change and the wave-like frequency obtained from Terminal A will become high. Therefore, if the output wave from this terminal A is processed through a sharp cut filter, by the existence of ink, an output can change a lot and the existence of ink can be detected.

[0059] (The 6th example) The 5th example of the above described the case where the pressure sensor 56 was attached in a perpendicular container wall part as shown in drawing 13. In this case, the diaphragm plate of a pressure sensor 56 is usually made from a diameter 10 thru/or the magnitude of 15 millimeters, therefore detection level serves as a comparatively high location.

[0060] On the other hand, in order to generate a signal in a smaller ink residue, it is possible to attach a pressure sensor at a level with a container pars basilaris ossis occipitalis. However, with this posture, since ink is not fully removed from the 56th page of a pressure sensor, there is risk of producing incorrect detection.

[0061] Then, it is good to attach the diaphragm of a pressure sensor 56 with the posture which inclined in the height location near the ink outflow opening 51. Thus, if constituted, while detection is trustworthy, a signal can be generated in respect of low ink.

[0062] Drawing 15 shows an example of the above-mentioned configuration. The container wall 57 which made a part of that base incline is formed in the ink container 50, and a pressure sensor 56 is attached in this part so that it may illustrate. The fitting location of a pressure sensor 56 is a location higher than the ink outflow opening 51, and is set as the height near the ink outflow opening 51 if possible.

[0063] By the way, the ink container 50 is assembled in one with an ink jet nozzle, is carried in a migration horizontal-scanning base, and reciprocates in many cases. In this case, ink flows violently that the ink container 50 is hollow in a container, and it is agitated, and ink flows out of an air induction inlet 54, or the fault of air bubbles mixing into ink occurs. In order to prevent generating of this fault, the foam of an open cell is held in the ink container 50, and it considers that this prevents a flow of ink.

[0064] If the above-mentioned foam touches the diaphragm of a pressure sensor 56, vibration of a diaphragm is controlled and it will stop however, operating as a pressure sensor 56. The guard member 59 which consists of a mesh corresponding to the diaphragm of the pressure sensor 56 in order to make it such a failure not arise, for example, as shown in drawing 15 is formed. By having formed this guard member 59, foam 58 ceases to contact the diaphragm of a pressure sensor 56 directly. Moreover, since the guard member 59 consists of a mesh, circulation of ink is not barred.

[0065] thus — if constituted — foam 58 — ink — being choppy — since only ink both contacts the diaphragm part of a pressure sensor 56 directly as if it is prevented and generating of this failure depended for being choppy is prevented, an ink residue is detectable with a sufficient precision.

[0066]

[Effect of the Invention] The head which connected the other end side to the ink source of supply while this invention has arranged in parallel two or more long and slender channels which are mutually separated by the septum and form a pressure generating room as explained in full detail above, and using the end side of these channels as the nozzle orifice edge. A migration scan means to make this head displaced relatively to a predetermined scanning direction to a record medium in support of the condition of having made this head countering a record medium. In the ink jet printer equipped with the head driving means which drives each channel of the above-mentioned head following a picture signal It constitutes so that it may be arranged in the direction which inclines at the include angle which set up the above-mentioned head according to dot density to the direction where the longitudinal direction of each channel and the nozzle orifice edge of each of that channel cross at right angles. And it constitutes so that the condition that each of that nozzle orifice edge holds the same gap, and counters to the above-mentioned record medium may be made to support this head for the above-mentioned migration scan means.

[0067] therefore, two or more sorts of printers by which dot densities differ the head same only by performing easy processing according to this invention — application **** — things are made and the ink jet printer which can aim at reduction of manufacture cost by this can be offered.

[Translation done.]

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TECHNICAL FIELD

[Industrial Application] This invention is equipped with two or more nozzles, and relates to the ink jet printer using the ink jet print head of the dot mold on demand which records by injecting ink alternatively from these nozzles according to a picture signal.

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PRIOR ART

[Description of the Prior Art] In the printer which used the ink jet print head of a dot mold on demand, it is a high speed, and in order to realize image recording of high density and to offer cheap equipment moreover, it is required to enable it to manufacture easily the head which arranged many nozzles by high density.

[0003] As a head which fills this demand, what is conventionally shown in JP,57-169364,A is known. This head consists of an exoergic resistor installation substrate 300 and a plate 308 with a slot.

[0004] Drawing 16 is what showed the configuration of the exoergic resistor installation substrate 300, and this exoergic resistor installation substrate 300 is created by forming common electrode 304a and selection electrode 304b-1-304b-4 while it forms the exoergic resistor 303-1 to 303-4 of constant width by selective etching, after carrying out laminating formation of the accumulation layer 302, the exoergic resistive layer 303, and the aluminum electrode layer 304 on the alumina substrate 301 at order. On the other hand, drawing 17 is what showed the configuration of the plate 308 with a slot, and this plate 308 with a slot is created by carrying out cutting formation of the slot used as the common ink room 307 while it uses a micro cutter etc. for a glass plate 305 and carries out cutting formation of two or more slots (channel) 306-1 to 306-4 by width of face equal to the formation width of face of the above-mentioned exoergic resistor 303-1 to 303-4.

[0005] And the exoergic resistor installation substrate 300 and the plate 308 with a slot which were created by doing in this way are mutually joined, where the alignment of the exoergic resistor 303-1 to 303-4 and slot 306-1 to 306-4 is made. Thereby, in a head, two or more channels which make a long and slender groove are formed in parallel at fixed spacing. In the end side of these channels, it is cut to an even length in the direction which intersects perpendicularly with the longitudinal direction of each channel, and this end face serves as ink injection nozzle opening. On the other hand, the other end side of each above-mentioned channel is open for free passage in the common ink room 307 within a head, and the ink installation tubing 309-1,309-2 for introducing ink into this common ink room 307 from the ink feed zone which is not illustrated is connected. Drawing 18 is the perspective view showing the configuration of this head.

[0006] In driving such a head, by supplying ink in a head through the ink installation tubing 309-1,309-2 from an ink feed zone, the inside of each channel is filled with water color ink, and it impresses a driving pulse signal alternatively between a common electrode and a selection electrode according to a picture signal in this condition. If it does so, the exoergic resistor corresponding to the electrode with which the driving pulse signal was impressed will generate heat, an ink solvent will evaporate with the heat in an instant, and ink will inject from a nozzle with the pressure by this.

[0007] In such a head, the upper limit of the array consistency of a nozzle and the number of nozzles is decided by process tolerance of the channel and electrode which are processed into the plate 308 with a slot, and an exoergic resistor. However, these processings are comparatively simple, and since densification is easy, they can realize the print head of high density cheaply.

[0008] In addition, when sufficient process tolerance over the above-mentioned slot, an electrode, and an exoergic resistor is not acquired, it is indicated by the Society of Electrophotography of Japan volume [32nd] No. 2 150 pages that it is good to stick on the outlet edge, i.e., the nozzle orifice edge, of a channel the plate which made the hole in the plastic sheet by laser beam machining.

[0009] It is British Industrial News 9/92 as another example of the print head which processes a majority of two or more channels in parallel, and makes each channel a pressure generating room on the other hand. What used deformation of the piezo-electric element by electric field for 9 pages as a principle of pressure generating is indicated. Drawing 19 is the perspective view showing the configuration.

[0010] That is, 401 is the substrate created for the material which has a piezoelectric effect, and the slot 402 is formed in this substrate 401. 403 is the septum. The closure of the top face is carried out by the member 404, and, thereby, as for the slot 402, chain flannel is formed. A nozzle plate 405 is arranged by the end of this channel, and, thereby, a nozzle orifice train is formed. On the other hand, the other end side of a channel is open for free passage into the ink supply slot 406. The electrode which is not illustrated is formed in the side attachment wall 403. And if the pulse signal according to a picture signal is impressed to this electrode from the drive circuit 407, a side attachment wall 403 will be distorted and ink will be injected by that stress from a nozzle orifice.

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EFFECT OF THE INVENTION

[Effect of the Invention] The head which connected the other end side to the ink source of supply while this invention has arranged in parallel two or more long and slender channels which are mutually separated by the septum and form a pressure generating room as explained in full detail above, and using the end side of these channels as the nozzle orifice edge. A migration scan means to make this head displaced relatively to a predetermined scanning direction to a record medium in support of the condition of having made this head countering a record medium. In the ink jet printer equipped with the head driving means which drives each channel of the above-mentioned head following a picture signal It constitutes so that it may be arranged in the direction which inclines at the include angle which set up the above-mentioned head according to dot density to the direction where the longitudinal direction of each channel and the nozzle orifice edge of each of that channel cross at right angles. And it constitutes so that the condition that each of that nozzle orifice edge holds the same gap, and counters to the above-mentioned record medium may be made to support this head for the above-mentioned migration scan means.
[0067] therefore, two or more sorts of printers by which dot densities differ the head same only by performing easy processing according to this invention — application **** — things are made and the ink jet printer which can aim at reduction of manufacture cost by this can be offered.

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TECHNICAL PROBLEM

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] Each print head described above can be manufactured to high density with high precision and efficiently processing using master patterns, such as etching, and by using tools of dedication, such as a multiple disk cutter.

[0012] However, there were the following technical problems which should be solved in the conventional printer using such a print head. That is, there are a printer which generally mainly prints out an alphabetic character, and a printer for performing the plotter for printing out a drawing and a copy as printer. Among these, a print is performed, for example with the dot density of 180 or 360DPI by the printer which prints out the former alphabetic character. On the other hand, a print is performed, for example with the dot density of 200 or 400DPI by the printer which prints out the latter drawing etc. It is very economical, if one kind of head can be included in both printers when producing two or more sorts of printers by which such dot densities differ.

[0013] However, said conventional head will be beforehand determined by the formation pitch of the channel pitch fang furrow, an electrode, and an exoergic resistor fixed. For this reason, when manufacturing two or more sorts of printers by which dot densities differ, according to that dot density, the head of dedication must be manufactured, respectively for every printer. In order to manufacture the print head from which this channel pitch differs, the tool of dedication according to many the mask patterns for etching and processing pitches is required respectively, and the rise of manufacture cost is not avoided.

[0014] This invention was made paying attention to the above-mentioned situation, the place made into the purpose enables it to apply the same head to two or more sorts of printers by which dot densities differ only by performing easy processing, and it is in offering the ink jet printer which can aim at reduction of manufacture cost by this.

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MEANS

[Means for Solving the Problem] In order to attain the above-mentioned purpose, this invention arranges in parallel two or more long and slender channels which are mutually separated by the septum and form a pressure generating room. The head which connected the other end side to the ink source of supply while using the end side of these channels as the nozzle orifice edge, A migration scan means to make this head displaced relatively to a predetermined scanning direction to a record medium in support of the condition of having made this head countering a record medium, In the ink jet printer equipped with the head driving means which drives each channel of the above-mentioned head following a picture signal It constitutes so that it may be arranged in the direction which inclines at the include angle which set up the above-mentioned head according to dot density to the direction where the longitudinal direction of each channel and the nozzle orifice edge of each of that channel cross at right angles. And it constitutes so that the condition that each of that nozzle orifice edge holds the same gap, and counters to the above-mentioned record medium may be made to support this head for the above-mentioned migration scan means.

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OPERATION

[Function] As a result, according to this invention, it becomes possible to change the array pitch of each nozzle orifice edge into arbitration only by changing whenever [tilt-angle / of the array direction of each nozzle orifice end line]. Therefore, a head applicable to two or more sorts of printers by which dot densities differ only by performing easy processing for carrying out adjustable [of the include angle of the array direction of the above-mentioned nozzle orifice end line] to one kind of head which has a predetermined channel pitch can be manufactured. For this reason, the manufacture cost of a head can be reduced and it enables this to attain low-pricing of a printer.

[Translation done.]

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EXAMPLE

[Example]

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DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] Drawing showing the whole ink jet printer configuration concerning the 1st example of this invention.
[Drawing 2] Drawing for using it for explanation of the production approach of the head used for the printer shown in drawing 1 .
[Drawing 3] Drawing showing the configuration of the head unit produced by the production approach shown in drawing 2 .
[Drawing 4] The side elevation showing the condition of having attached in the migration horizontal-scanning base the head unit shown in drawing 3 .
[Drawing 5] Drawing showing the whole ink jet printer configuration concerning the 2nd example of this invention.
[Drawing 6] Drawing of longitudinal section showing the configuration of the head concerning the 3rd example of this invention.
[Drawing 7] The sectional side elevation showing the configuration of the head concerning the 3rd example of this invention.
[Drawing 8] The top view showing the configuration of the head concerning the 3rd example of this invention.
[Drawing 9] The front view showing the configuration of the head concerning the 4th example of this invention.
[Drawing 10] The front view showing the condition of having attached the head concerning the 4th example of this invention in the migration horizontal-scanning base.
[Drawing 11] The side elevation of the head concerning the 4th example of this invention.
[Drawing 12] Drawing for explaining rotation of a head, and the inclination of a nozzle configuration side.
[Drawing 13] The sectional view showing the configuration of the ink container concerning the 5th example of this invention.
[Drawing 14] The circuit diagram showing an example of the configuration of a pressure sensor.
[Drawing 15] The fragmentary sectional view showing the configuration of the ink container concerning the 6th example of this invention which improved further the ink container shown in drawing 13 .
[Drawing 16] Drawing showing the configuration of the exoergic resistor installation substrate of the ink jet BURINTO head of the conventional dot mold on demand.
[Drawing 17] Drawing showing the configuration of the plate with a slot of the ink jet BURINTO head of the conventional dot mold on demand.
[Drawing 18] The perspective view showing the configuration of the head constituted combining the plate with a slot shown in the exoergic resistor installation substrate shown in drawing 16 , and drawing 17 .
[Drawing 19] The perspective view showing the configuration of the ink jet BURINTO head of the conventional dot mold on demand which used the piezo-electric element.

[Description of Notations]

- 1 — Recording paper roll
- 2 — Recording paper
- 3 — Guide idler
- 4 — Conveyance roller
- 5 — Pinch roller
- 6 — Suction box
- 7 — Platen
- 8 — Guide rail
- 9 — Migration horizontal-scanning base
- 10 — Head
- 11 — Head unit
- 12 — Side attachment wall
- 13 — Exoergic resistor
- 14 — Nozzle plate
- 15 — Pulley
- 16 — Wire
- 17 — Grip
- 20 — Source of a print subject-copy signal
- 21 — Write-in circuit

22 — Bit map memory
23 — Read-out circuit
24 — Pulse amendment command circuit
26 — Print head driver
27 — Horizontal-scanning Motor Driver
28 — Vertical-scanning Motor Driver
29 — Control circuit
30 — Head which used the piezo-electric element
31 — Piezo sheet
32 — Side attachment wall
33 — Electrode
34 — Cover sheet
35 — Nozzle plate
36 — Nozzle
37 — Ink supply slot
38 — Ink feed hopper
40 — Nozzle plate
41 41' — Print head unit
42 — Inclination suscepter
50 — Ink container
51 — Ink outflow opening
52 — Ink jet nozzle
53 — Cap
54 — Air induction inlet
55 — Filter
56 — Piezoelectric-device mold pressure sensor
57 — Container wall
58 — Firing material
59 — Guard member
60 — Sensor of a pressure sensor
61 — Piezoelectric device
62-64 — Electrode

[Translation done.]

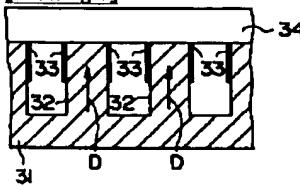
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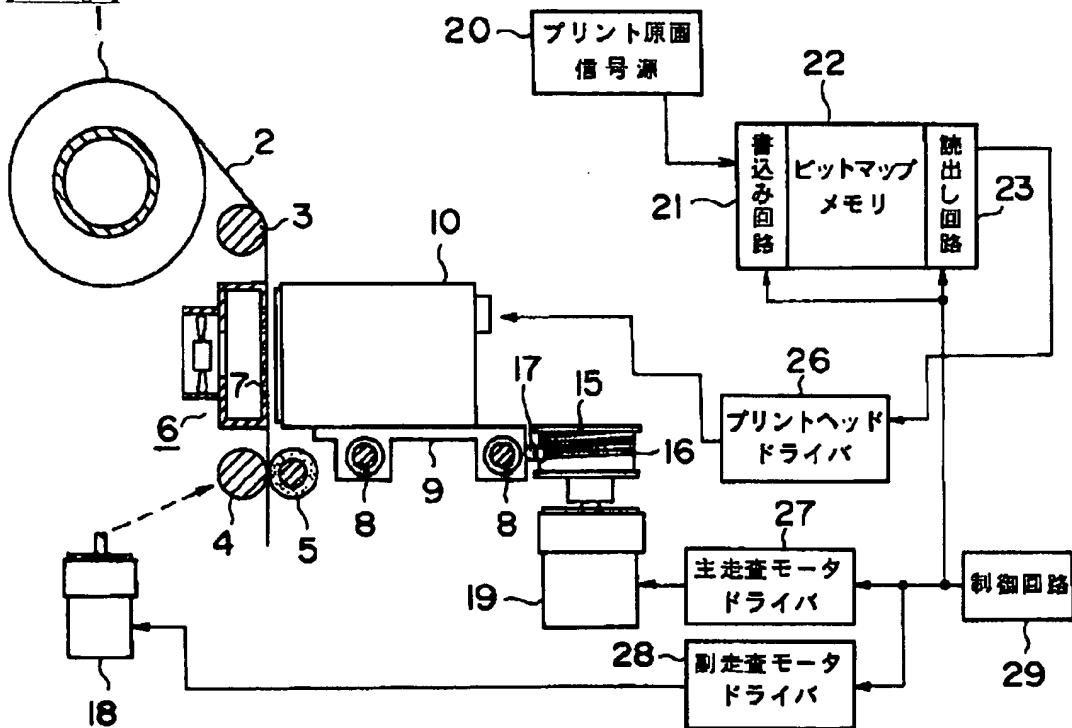
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DRAWINGS

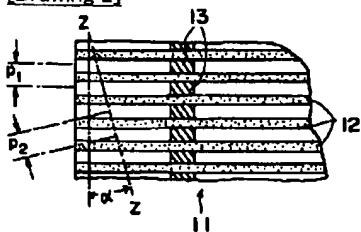
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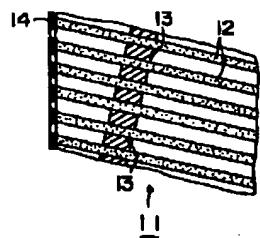
[Drawing 1]



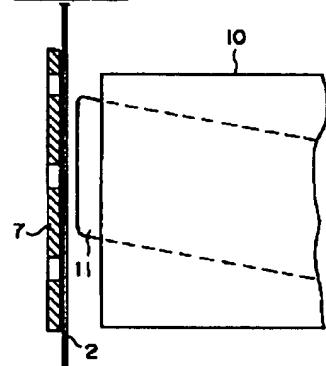
[Drawing 2]



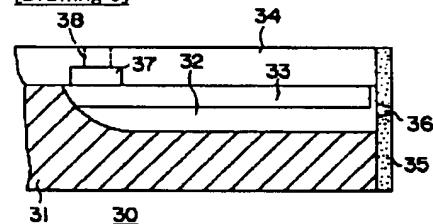
[Drawing 3]



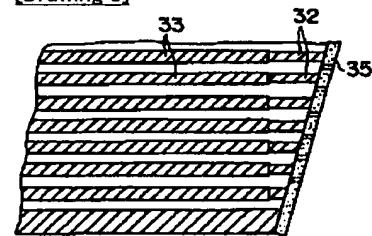
[Drawing 4]



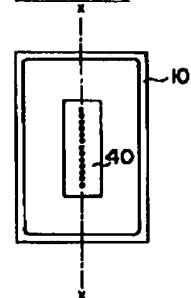
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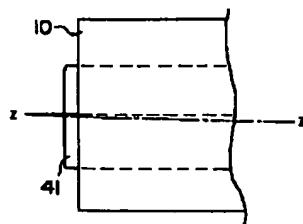


[Drawing 8]

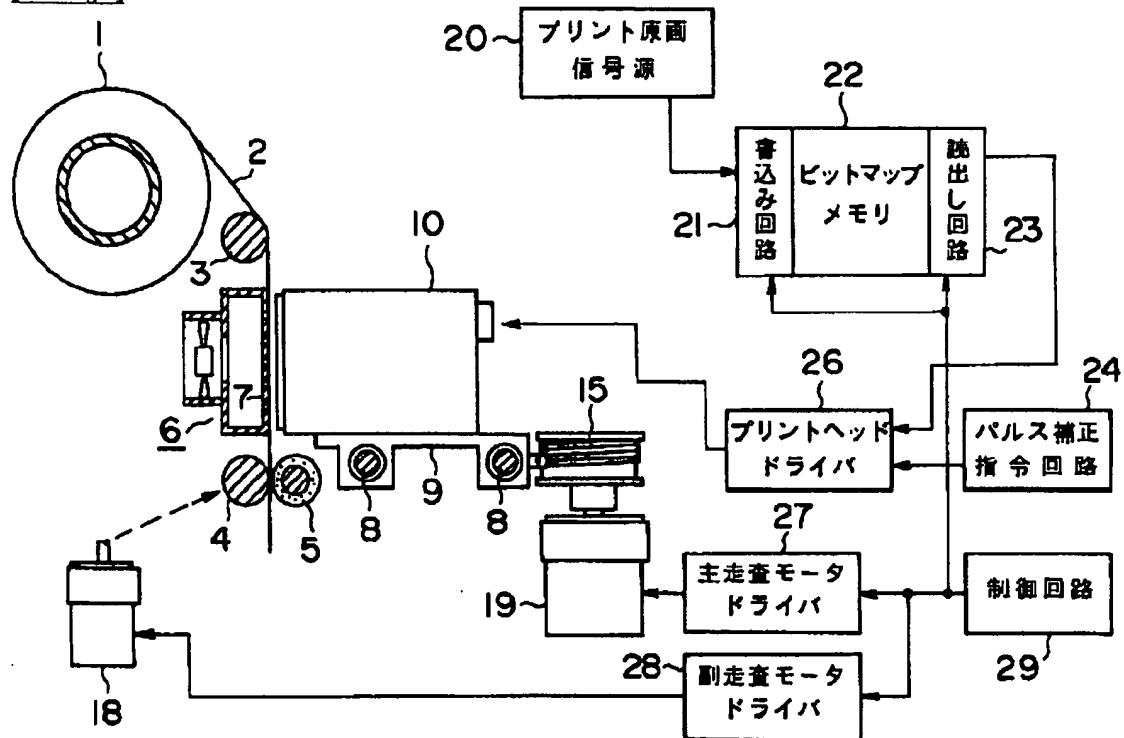


[Drawing 9]

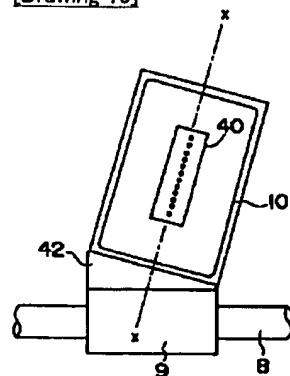




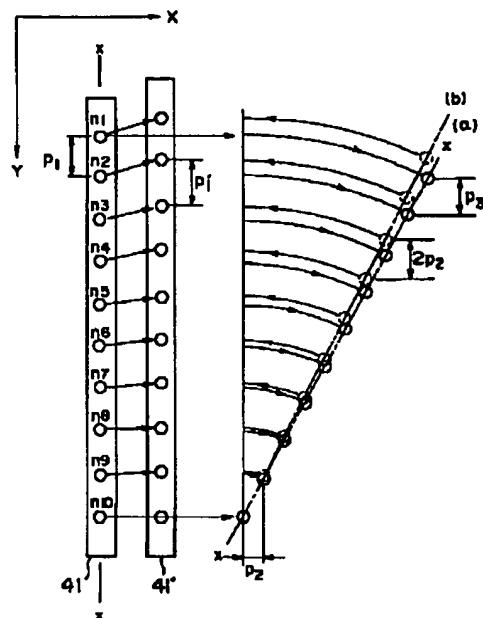
[Drawing 5]



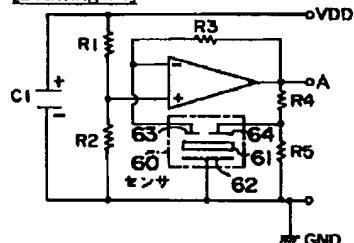
[Drawing 10]



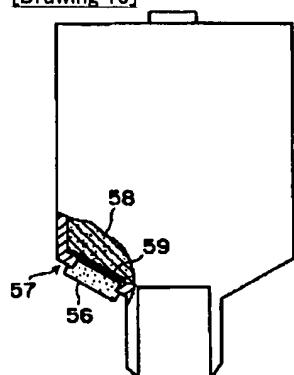
[Drawing 12]



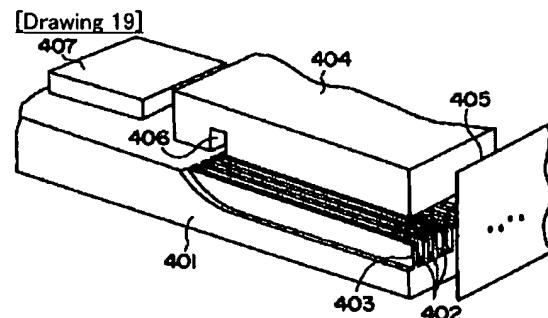
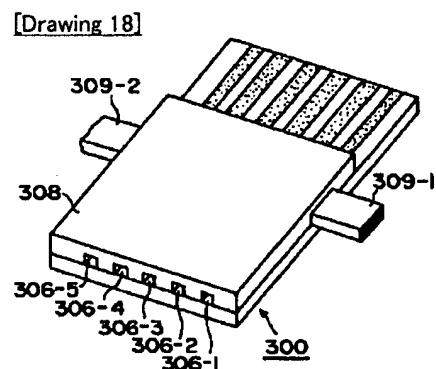
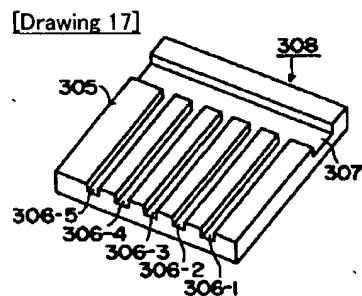
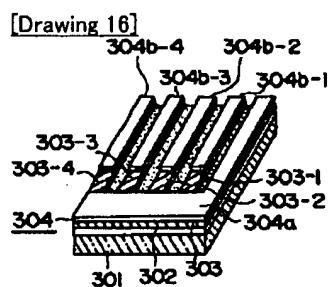
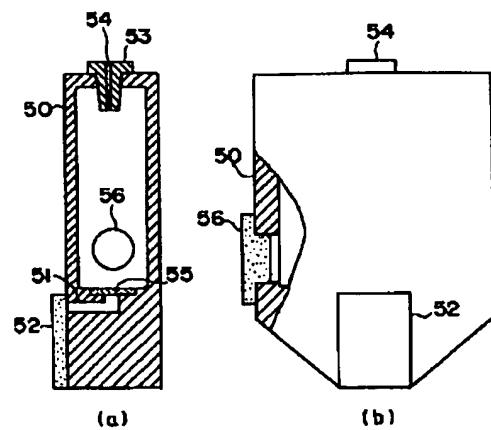
[Drawing 14]



[Drawing 15]



[Drawing 13]



[Translation done.]

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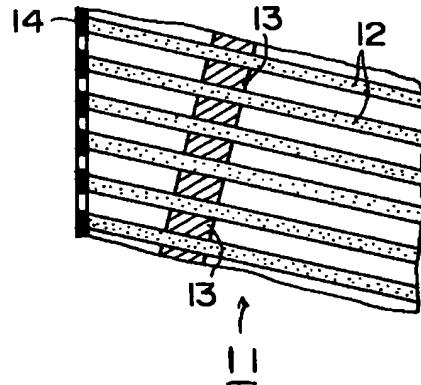
(74) 代理人 弁理士 鈴江 武彦

(54) 【発明の名称】 インクジェットプリンタ

(57) 【要約】

【目的】 簡単な加工を施すだけで同一のヘッドをドット密度の異なる複数種のプリンタに適用できるようにし、これにより製作コストの低減を図る。

【構成】 ヘッド10を、その各チャネルのノズル開口端が各チャネルの長手方向と直交する方向に対しドット密度に応じて設定した角度 α で傾めになる方向に配列されるように構成し、かつこのヘッド10を、その各ノズル開口端が記録紙の記録面に対し一定のギャップを保持して対向する状態に移動走査手段に支持させるように構成したものである。



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】隔壁により相互に分離されて圧力発生室を形成する細長い複数のチャネルを平行に配置し、これらのチャネルの一端側をノズル開口端とするとともに他端側をインク供給源に接続したヘッドと、このヘッドを記録媒体に対向させた状態に支持してこのヘッドを記録媒体に対し所定の走査方向に相対移動させる移動走査手段と、前記ヘッドの各チャネルを画信号に応動して駆動するヘッド駆動手段とを備えたインクジェットプリンタにおいて、

前記ヘッドを、その各チャネルのノズル開口端が各チャネルの長手方向と直交する方向に対しドット密度に応じて設定した角度で傾斜する方向に配列されるように構成し、かつこのヘッドを、その各ノズル開口端が前記記録媒体に対し同一ギャップを保持して対向する状態に前記移動走査手段に支持させてなることを特徴とするインクジェットプリンタ。

【発明の詳細な説明】

【0001】

【産業上の利用分野】本発明は、複数のノズルを備え、画信号に応じてこれらのノズルから選択的にインクを噴射することにより記録を行なうドットオンディマンド型のインクジェットプリントヘッドを用いたインクジェットプリンタに関する。

【0002】

【従来の技術】ドットオンディマンド型のインクジェットプリントヘッドを使用したプリンタにおいて、高速でかつ高密度の画像記録を実現しありながら安価な装置を提供するには、ノズルを高密度で多数配列したヘッドを容易に製作できるようになることが必要である。

【0003】この要求を満たすヘッドとして、従来より例えば特開昭57-169364号公報に示されるもののが知られている。このヘッドは、発熱抵抗体設置基板300と溝付きプレート308とから構成される。

【0004】図16は発熱抵抗体設置基板300の構成を示したもので、この発熱抵抗体設置基板300はアルミニナ基板301上に蓄熱層302、発熱抵抗層303およびアルミニウム電極層304を順に積層形成したのち、選択エッチングにより一定幅の発熱抵抗体303-1～303-4を形成するとともに、共通電極304aおよび選択電極304b-1～304b-4を形成することにより作成される。一方、図17は溝付きプレート308の構成を示したもので、この溝付きプレート308はガラス板305にマイクロカッタ等を用いて、上記発熱抵抗体303-1～303-4の形成幅と等しい幅で複数本の溝(チャネル)306-1～306-4を切削形成するとともに、共通インク室307となる溝を切削形成することにより作成される。

【0005】そして、このようにして作成された発熱抵抗体設置基板300と溝付きプレート308とは、その

発熱抵抗体303-1～303-4と溝306-1～306-4との位置合わせがなされた状態で相互に接合される。これにより、ヘッド内には細長い溝状をなす複数のチャネルが一定間隔で平行に形成される。これらのチャネルの一端側は、各チャネルの長手方向と直交する方向に切り揃えられ、この端面がインク噴射ノズル口となる。一方、上記各チャネルの他端側はヘッド内で共通インク室307に連通し、この共通インク室307には図示しないインク供給部からインクを導入するためのインク導入管309-1、309-2が接続される。図18はこのヘッドの構成を示す斜視図である。

【0006】このようなヘッドを駆動する場合には、インク供給部からインク導入管309-1、309-2を介してヘッド内にインクを供給することにより各チャネル内を水性インクで満たし、この状態で画信号に応じて駆動パルス信号を共通電極と選択電極との間に選択的に印加する。そうすると、駆動パルス信号が印加された電極に対応する発熱抵抗体が発熱し、その熱により瞬時にインク溶媒が気化して、これによる圧力によってインクがノズルから噴射する。

【0007】このようなヘッドにおいて、ノズルの配列密度およびノズル数の上限は、溝つきプレート308に加工するチャネルと電極および発熱抵抗体の加工精度とによって決まる。しかし、これらの加工は比較的簡易で高密度化が容易であるため、高密度のプリントヘッドを安価に実現することが可能である。

【0008】なお、上記溝、電極および発熱抵抗体に対する十分な加工精度が得られない場合には、プラスチック板にレーザー加工によって穴を開けた板をチャネルの出口端、つまりノズル開口端に貼り付けるとよいことが、電子写真学会誌第32巻第2号150頁に記載されている。

【0009】一方、複数のチャネルを平行に多数加工し、各チャネルを圧力発生室とするプリントヘッドの別の例として、British Industrial News 9/92 9頁には、圧力発生の原理として電界によるピエゾ素子の変形を利用したものが開示されている。図19はその構成を示す斜視図である。

【0010】すなわち、401はピエゾ効果を有する素材で作成された基板であり、この基板401には溝402が形成されている。403はその隔壁である。溝402はその上面が部材404で封止されており、これによりチャンネルが形成されている。このチャネルの一端にはノズル板405が配設され、これによりノズル開口列が形成される。これに対しチャネルの他端側はインク供給溝406に連通している。隔壁403には図示しない電極が形成されている。そして、この電極に駆動回路407から画信号に応じたパルス信号を印加すると、隔壁403が歪んでその歪力によりノズル開口からインクが噴射される。

【0011】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】以上述べた各プリントヘッドは、エッティング等のマスターパターンを利用した加工や、マルチディスクカッタ等の専用の工具を用いることによって、高精度で効率良く高密度に製作することができます。

【0012】ところが、この様なプリントヘッドを用いた従来のプリンタには、次のような解決すべき課題があった。すなわち、プリンタには、一般に文字を主としてプリントアウトするプリンタと、図面をプリントアウトするためのプロッタや複写を行なうためのプリンタとがある。このうち前者の文字をプリントアウトするプリンタでは、例えば180または360DPIのドット密度でプリントが行なわれる。これに対し後者の図面などをプリントアウトするプリンタでは、例えば200または400DPIのドット密度でプリントが行なわれる。これらのドット密度の異なる複数種のプリンタを作製する場合、1種類のヘッドを両方のプリンタに組み込むことができれば、極めて経済的である。

【0013】しかし、前記従来のヘッドは、そのチャネルピッチが溝、電極および発熱抵抗体の形成ピッチにより予め固定的に決定されてしまう。このため、ドット密度の異なる複数種のプリンタを製作する場合には、プリンタごとにそのドット密度に応じてそれぞれ専用のヘッドを製作しなければならない。このチャネルピッチの異なるプリントヘッドを製作するには、多数のエッティング用マスクパターンや加工ピッチに応じた専用の工具がそれぞれ必要であり、製作コストの上昇が避けられない。

【0014】本発明は上記事情に着目してなされたもので、その目的とするところは、簡単な加工を施すだけで同一のヘッドをドット密度の異なる複数種のプリンタに適用できるようにし、これにより製作コストの低減を図ることができるインクジェットプリンタを提供することにある。

【0015】

【課題を解決するための手段】上記目的を達成するためには本発明は、隔壁により相互に分離されて圧力発生室を形成する細長い複数のチャネルを平行に配置し、これらのチャネルの一端側をノズル開口端とともに他端側をインク供給源に接続したヘッドと、このヘッドを記録媒体に対向させた状態に支持してこのヘッドを記録媒体に対し所定の走査方向に相対移動させる移動走査手段と、上記ヘッドの各チャネルを画信号に応動して駆動するヘッド駆動手段とを備えたインクジェットプリンタにおいて、上記ヘッドを、その各チャネルのノズル開口端が各チャネルの長手方向と直交する方向に対しドット密度に応じて設定した角度で傾斜する方向に配列されるよう構成し、かつこのヘッドを、その各ノズル開口端が上記記録媒体に対し同一ギャップを保持して対向する状態に上記移動走査手段に支持せしめるように構成したもの

である。

【0016】

【作用】この結果本発明によれば、各ノズル開口端列の配列方向の傾斜角度を変えるだけで、各ノズル開口端の配列ピッチを任意に変更することが可能となる。したがって、所定のチャネルピッチを有する1種類のヘッドに、上記ノズル開口端列の配列方向の角度を可変するための簡単な加工を施すだけで、ドット密度の異なる複数種のプリンタに適用可能なヘッドを製作することができる。このため、ヘッドの製作コストを引き下げることができ、これによりプリンタの低価格化を図ることが可能となる。

【0017】**【実施例】**

(第1の実施例) 図1は、本発明の第1の実施例に係わるインクジェットプリンタの全体構成を示す図である。同図において、1は記録紙ロールであり、この記録紙ロール1から引き出された記録紙2は、ガイドローラ3でガイドされ、さらに吸引ボックス6のプラテン7において走行位置が規制されたのち、搬送ローラ4およびピンチローラ5に導かれる。搬送ローラ4は、ステップモータからなる副走査モータ18により回転駆動され、上記記録紙2を挟持してステップ的に副走査移動させる。

【0018】8, 8は一对のガイドレールであり、記録紙2の記録面に対し平行に配置されている。このガイドレール8, 8には、移動主走査台9が軸受けを介して移動自在に支持されており、この移動主走査台9上にはマルチノズルオンディマンドインクジェットプリントヘッド(以後単にヘッドと称する)10が固定されている。また、15, 15は一对のブーリーであり、これらのブーリー15, 15間にはワイヤ16が掛け渡され、このワイヤの一端は上記移動主走査台9のグリップ17に固定されている。上記ブーリー15, 15のうちの一方のブーリーの軸は主走査モータ19に連結されており、他方のブーリーは従動回転する。したがって、主走査モータ19を往復回転することにより、移動主走査台9上に搭載されたヘッド10は記録紙2の記録面に対し往復動し、これにより主走査が行なわれる。

【0019】20はプリント原画信号源であり、画信号

40はこのプリント原画信号源20によりラスタ画信号の形態に変換されたのち書き込み回路21に入力される。書き込み回路21は、上記画信号をビットマップメモリ22に書き込む。このビットマップメモリ22に書き込まれた画信号は、プリント時に読み出し回路23が指定するアドレス順序およびタイミングに従って読み出され、プリントヘッドドライバ26に供給される。プリントヘッドドライバ26は、上記画信号に応じてヘッド10の各チャネルを通電駆動する。

【0020】27, 28はそれぞれ主走査モータドライバおよび副走査モータドライバであり、これらのモータ

ドライバ27、28は制御回路29の制御に応じてそれぞれ主走査モータ19および副走査モータ18を回転駆動する。

【0021】ところで、上記ヘッド10のヘッドユニット11は次のように構成される。図2はその発熱抵抗体設置基板の構成を示す部分平面図である。基板上には、細長いチャネルが複数本並列に配設されている。これらのチャネルは、側壁12、12、…により相互に仕切られており、これにより各々がインク圧力発生室を形成している。また、各チャネルにはそれぞれ発熱抵抗体13、13、…が設けられており、これらの発熱抵抗体13、13、…がプリントヘッドドライバ26により通電駆動されることによりインクが気化されて後述するノズル開口から噴射される。上記チャネルは、副走査方向に所望のドット密度pと同じか又はその整数倍のピッチで加工される。図示例ではピッチをp₁で示してある。このピッチp₁は、最も汎用のプリンタやプロッタが有するドット密度に対応するように設定されている。

【0022】さて、この様な配列ピッチp₁を有するヘッドを基に、ドット密度が上記汎用のプリンタやプロッタと異なる別種のプリンタまたはプロッタに適合するプリンタを製作する場合には、次のように行なう、すなわち、上記ヘッドユニット11のノズル開口端側端面を、z-z線に示すように各チャネルの配列方向に対し所望の角度αで傾斜した線に沿って切断加工する。つまり、各チャネルを斜めに横切った平面上にノズル開口端が配列するように加工する。ここで、上記傾斜角度αは、上記別種のプリンタまたはプロッタのドット密度に応じて、ノズル開口の配列ピッチがp₂になるように設定される。そして、このようにノズル開口端面が斜め方向に切断加工されたヘッドの切断面には、図3に示すごとく所定の大きさのノズル口を有するノズル板14が貼着される。かくして、ノズル開口ピッチp₂を有した、上記別種のプリンタまたはプロッタに適合するヘッドユニット11が作製される。

【0023】そして、このヘッドユニット11は、その各ノズル開口端面と記録紙2との間のギャップが一定となるように移動主走査台9上に位置決めされて固定される。図4はこの固定後のヘッド10の状態を示す側面図である。

【0024】このように構成すれば、ノズル開口端の配列位置がチャネルの配列方向に対し所定角度αで傾斜した位置に設定される。このため、このノズル開口の配列ピッチp₂は、図2に示すごとくヘッド自体のチャネル配列ピッチp₁よりも大きなものとなる。したがって、例えばチャネル配列ピッチp₁が200DPIに対応するノズルピッチであったとすれば、p₂を180DPIまたは150DPIのドット密度に整合させることができる。またp₁が180DPIに対応する時にp₂として150DPIに対応した値とすることができます。

【0025】したがって本実施例であれば、任意のチャネル配列ピッチp₁を有する汎用のヘッドをそのまま利用し、このヘッドのノズル開口側端面を、プリンタのドット密度に応じて設定した傾斜角度αで切断加工するだけで、ドット密度の異なる別種のプリンタまたはプロッタに適合したヘッド作製することができる。このため、チャネルを形成するための基本的な加工工程は変更することなく、ノズル開口端の切断加工工程を追加するだけで、簡単かつ安価に種々ヘッドを作製することができ、これによりドット密度の異なる複数種のインクジェットプリンタを安価に提供することが可能となる。

【0026】なお、ノズル開口端面をチャネルの軸と直交する方向から傾斜させて配置したことにより、各ノズルごとにその位置によりチャネル部分の長さが異ったりノズル開口端面から発熱抵抗体の部分までの長さが異なるようになる。しかるに、オンドィマンド方式のインクジェットプリンタでは、ドットのオンオフによってプリントが行なれるため、上記のチャネル部分の構成に不揃な要素があったとしても文字や線の表現に支障が生ずるようなムラは発生しない。

【0027】(第2の実施例)ところが、ベタ黒画像のようなものをプリントした場合には、わずかなドットのサイズのムラであっても、それが特定の位置に集合して存在するとムラとして目視されるようになる。本発明の装置では、ヘッドのノズル配列ピッチで主走査方向に長い帯状の領域を一単位としてプリントが行なわれるのと、その帯の幅方向の一端側が高濃度で他端側が低濃度となる現象が見られ、帶すなわちバンディングとして目視されて画質の劣化を招く。

【0028】そこで、本実施例ではこのような不具合の発生を次のように防止している。図5は、本実施例に係わるインクジェットプリンタの全体構成を示すものである。なお、同図において前記図1と同一部分には同一符号を付して詳しい説明は省略する。

【0029】すなわち、本実施例のプリンタではパルス補正指令回路24が追加設置されている。このパルス補正指令回路24は、プリントヘッドドライバ26からヘッド10の各チャネルに供給される駆動パルスの波形を、ヘッド10のノズル位置に応じて補正する機能を有したものである。

【0030】例えば、プリントヘッドが図19に示したようにチャネルを構成するビエゾ素子の変形によりインクの噴射を行なうものである場合について説明すると、図2に示すようにチャネルの寸法が短くなったノズルにおいては、同じ駆動電圧を印加したのでは小量のインクしか噴射されない。そこでチャネルの有効長に対応させて、有効長が短いチャネルをドライブする場合には高い駆動電圧またはパルス幅の広い駆動パルスを印加するよう補正する。この補正量は、プリントヘッドのノズル位置に応じて決まってしまうので、各ノズル位置に対応

した補正量を予め求めてパルス補正指令回路24のメモリに記憶しておき、プリントヘッドドライバ26の動作をこのメモリに記憶された補正量に基づいて補正することにより実現される。

【0031】このような実施例であれば、各ノズルに供給する駆動パルスの電圧値もしくはパルス幅が各ノズルごとに補正されるため、各ノズル開口端を斜め方向に配列したヘッドであっても、各ノズル間におけるインク噴射特性のばらつきをなくすことができ、これにより高品質のプリントを行なうことができる。

【0032】なお、補正手段としては、例えば各ノズルに対応するドライバ素子に供給する電圧が素子毎に予め補正された値として供給されるように、電源回路やドライブ回路の素子パラメータをかえておくようによくてもよい。

【0033】(第3の実施例) 上記第2の実施例では、駆動パルスの電圧もしくはパルス幅を可変設定することによりノズル間のインク噴射特性のばらつきを補正するようにしたが、ヘッド自体の構造を工夫することによっても補正是可能である。本実施例はその一例を示すものである。

【0034】すなわち、ピエゾ素子を使用したヘッド30では、例えば図6および図7に示すとくピエゾシート31上に多条の溝が形成されている。これらの溝は、側壁32により相互に仕切られており、これらの側壁32上には電極33が作られている。また、上記各溝はカバーシート34により閉塞され、これによって溝はインクで満されるチャネルとなる。各チャネルの一端側は、ノズル36を加工したノズルプレート35で封止されており、これによりノズル開口端が形成されている。また、各チャネルの他端には各チャネルにインクを供給するインク供給溝37が設けられ、このインク供給溝37には外部からインクを供給するためのインク供給口38が接続されている。

【0035】ところで、上記ノズル開口端は、各チャネルの配列方向に対し所定の傾斜角を有して斜めに切削加工されており、この傾斜端面にノズルプレート35が貼着されている。また、各側壁32上に形成される電極33は、側壁32の全長に亘つて設けられているのではなく、短い方のチャネルの側壁に合わせた寸法で、全側壁32に対し同じ長さで設けられている。なお、図7に示す矢印Dは分極の方向を示している。

【0036】このような構成のヘッドは、ピエゾ素子を使用したものであり、この種のヘッドは、側壁32を挟む両電極33間に駆動電圧を印加した時に分極と直角方向にピエゾ板の側壁が撓むことを利用してチャネルの容積を変化させ、この力によってインクを噴射させるものである。すなわち、ピエゾ板の側壁32に設けた電極33に対応する側壁部分のみが変形する。このため、各ノズル口を斜めに配列したことにより各チャネルの長さに長

短が生じても、本実施例のヘッドのように電極33の寸法が一定であればインクの噴射量も一定となる。このため、前記第2の実施例で述べたような電気的な補正を行なう必要はなくなる。

【0037】(第4の実施例) 本発明のヘッドでは、ノズル口端面の傾斜角が大きくなる程、チャネルの配列ピッチに対してノズル間ピッチが大きくなるため、上記傾斜角を任意に選ぶことによりプリントヘッドのドット密度に応じた最適なノズル配列ピッチを有するヘッドを作製することができる。ところが、傾斜角が大きくなりすぎると、傾斜のない基本的なプリントヘッドとの違いが大きくなりすぎて、共通性が次第に失われてしまう。

【0038】そこで基本的なプリントヘッドの対応ドット密度に対してドット密度を大きく変化させるにも拘らず、プリントヘッドノズル面の傾斜をあまり増大させない構成が必要となる。

【0039】本実施例は、この点に着目し、プリントヘッドのノズル配列基準軸が副走査方向に対して傾斜する状態に移動走査台上に固定するようにしたものである。

20 図9乃至図11はその構成を示すものである。

【0040】すなわち、プリントヘッド10のノズル端面には、図9の正面図に示すとくノズル板40が取着されている。ノズル板40には配列基準軸x-xに沿って複数のノズル開口が整列配置されている。なお、ノズルの配列を容易にするために、ノズルを二次元的に配列する場合もあるが、その場合でも複数のノズル開口を整列配置させる基準軸は存在する。通常の場合、この基準軸は副走査方向に一致させ、主走査方向と直交する方向に定められており、かつこの方向に配置した時にノズルは副走査方向に所望のピッチで配列されるように作られている。

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【0041】これに対し、本実施例のプリンタでは、図10に示すようにノズル配列の基準軸x-xを記録紙2と対向する面内で傾けて支持するように傾斜支持台42が設けられている。それと同時に後に詳細に説明するようにプリントヘッドのノズル配列面がチャネルの長手軸と直交する方向に対して傾斜しているので、プリントヘッドユニットはチャネル軸がヘッド支持台に対して傾斜する方向に取り付けられる。図11はプリントヘッド10の側面図である。同図において、プリントヘッドユニット41のノズル配列面は、記録紙2の記録面に対し平行となるように支持されるため、チャネル軸z-zは水平方向に対して傾斜して取り付けられる。

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【0042】次に、図12を用いてドット密度変更のためのヘッド10の回転およびノズル配列面の傾斜について説明する。同図において、41はプリントヘッドユニットを示し、n₁～n₁₀はノズル位置を示すものとする。各ノズルは、所定のドット密度、例えば180DP-Iに対応するピッチp₁(p₁=0.141ミリメートル)で配列されているものとする。なお、x-xはノズ

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ル配列の基準軸であり、Xは主走査方向、Yは副走査方向である。

【0043】このプリントヘッドのエレメントを共用して200DPIまたは400DPIのドット密度のプリンタを実現するために、プリントヘッドユニット41を傾ける場合を例にとって説明する。

【0044】基準軸x-xを傾けると、ノズルは主走査方向Xおよび副走査方向Yに対しともに一定のピッチで離間配列されるようになる。そして各ノズルを同じタイミングでドライブできるようにするために、主走査方向Xのノズルピッチ p_2 は所望のプリントドット密度の整数倍または整数分の1となっていなければならない。

【0045】図12の例では、200DPIまたは400DPIのプリントを行なうものとして、 p_2 が0.0635ミリメートルとなるように基準軸x-xを図12の(a)に示す位置に傾けるものとする。この結果、副走査方向Yのノズルピッチ p_3 は0.1259ミリメートルとなり、200DPIのピッチ0.127よりわずかに短くなる。各ノズル間のピッチのずれは、所望値に対しわずかで無視し得る寸法であるが、ノズル数を64ノズル、128ノズル、256ノズルというように多数のノズル数にマルチノズル化した時には、累積差が1ドット以上になってしまいこの誤差が無視できなくなる。

【0046】そこで、主走査方向Xのノズルピッチ p_2 はそのままにして、副走査方向Yのノズルピッチを所望のドット密度、例えば200DPIに対応する0.127ミリメートルになるようにしたとする、そうすると、このときのノズル配列は、基準軸x-xを図12の(b)の位置において点線で示されるノズルによって達成される。

【0047】したがって、この場合必要なノズルユニットは点線で示されるノズルで、このノズルの基準軸を副走査方向Yに回転させて図示したのが41'である。この時のノズル間のピッチ $p_{1'}$ を計算すると0.142ミリメートルとなる。

【0048】180DPI対応のノズルピッチは0.141ミリメートルであるから、その差はわずかに0.001ミリメートルとなる。しかし、64ノズルを集合したプリントヘッドでは累積誤差は0.064ミリメートルで、400DPIのプリント時の1ドット分にあたり、128ノズルを集合した場合は2ドット分にあたる。

【0049】そこでこの誤差を補正するために、先に図2で説明したように、ノズルの配列面をチャンネルの軸と直交する方向に対して傾斜させて、ノズル間ピッチを0.141ミリメートルから0.142ミリメートルに拡大する。この時の傾斜角は6.8°である。

【0050】上記計算例においては、主走査方向Xのピッチ p_2 は400DPIに対応する0.0635ミリメートルとなっている。このため、400DPIのプリントを行なう場合には、全ノズルから同時にインクを噴射することができるが、200DPIのプリントを行なう場合には、一つおきのノズル群にわけて、各群を交互にドライブするように構成すればよい。

【0051】主走査方向のノズル間ピッチは、所望のプリントドット密度に等しいかその整数倍であれば、全ノズルを同時駆動してプリントを行なうことができる。所望のプリントピッチの1/nのピッチであると、全ノズルをn回に分割してドライブしなければならなくなり、nが2以上であるとプリントの効率が極めて悪くなってしまうので好ましくない。

【0052】(第5の実施例)ところで、インクジェットプリンタにおいては、インクが消耗するとプリントを行なえなくなる。このような場合、インクとノズルを1体化したカートリッジヘッドでは新しいヘッドと交換する必要があり、またインクを補充して使用するタイプのヘッドでは補給を適切に行なわなければならぬ。

【0053】プリントが不良の場合、それに気づかなければプリントの元データが消失してしまう場合もあり、その被害は著しいものがある。また、インクを補充してプリントヘッドをくり返し使用するタイプのものでは、インクの残量が所定レベル以下になると、それ以後にインクを補充してもインク供給路から空気を排除できなくなり、再度インクを噴射することができなくなってしまうという問題が生じる。これ等の問題の発生を防止するために、インクの残量を検知して、インク消耗のアラーム信号を発生させることはきわめて重要な課題である。

【0054】従来、インクジェットプリンタ用のインクとしては、水を溶媒とするインクが用いられていたために、インクの残量検知手段としてはインクの導電性を利用するものが用いられていた。すなわち、インク容器中に一对の電極を置いて、インクが消耗すると電極間の導電性が失われることを検知するものである。ところが、水溶性のインクに代わって、非水系の溶媒でかつ絶縁性の溶媒からなるインクが用いられるようになると、従来の導電性に基づく検知手段を用いることができなくなり、これに代わる有効で簡易な検知手段が要望されている。

【0055】そこで、本実施例においては次のようにしてインクの残量検知を可能としている。図13(a), (b)は、本実施例に係わるジェットインク容器の構成を示すものである。

【0056】すなわち、インク容器50の下端底部にはインク流出開口51が設けてあり、この開口51はインクジェットノズル52に連通している。インク容器50の上部にはキャップ53が設けられており、このキャップには空気導入口54が設けられている。また、底部インク流出開口51よりも高い位置にある器壁部分には、圧電素子型圧力センサ56が取付けられている。なお、インク流出開口51の入口にはフィルタ55が設けられ

ており、このフィルタ55により空気および異物がインクジェットノズル側に送られることを防止している。

【0057】圧電素子型圧力センサ56は、例えば図14に示すように構成される。図中の一点鎖線で示した部分が感知部60である。この感知部60は、圧電素子61上に電極62、63、64を取り付けて、全体を不図示のダイアフラム面に接合したものである。電極62と電極64との間に交番電圧を印加すると、圧電素子61が振動し、その変形に基づいて電極62、63間に電圧が発生する。この電圧を増幅して電極64、62間にフィードバックすると、ダイアフラムと圧電素子61からなる感圧部の共振周波数で振動し、端子Aから振動波形が得られる。

【0058】この状態でダイアフラムがインク等の液体内に浸されると、ダイアフラムの共振周波数が変化して、端子Aから得られる波形の周波数が高くなる。したがって、この端子Aからの出力波形をシャープカットフィルタを通して処理すると、インクの有無によって大きく出力が変化してインクの有無を検知することができる。

【0059】(第6の実施例)上記第5の実施例では、図13に示したように圧力センサ56を垂直な器壁部分に取り付けた場合について述べた。この場合、圧力センサ56のダイアフラム板は通常直径10乃至15ミリメートルの大きさで作られていて、そのために検知レベルが比較的高い位置となる。

【0060】これに対し、より少いインク残量で信号を発生させるためには、容器底部に水平に圧力センサを取り付けることが考えられる。しかし、この姿勢ではインクが十分に圧力センサ56面から除去されていないので誤検知を生ずる危険がある。

【0061】そこで、圧力センサ56のダイアフラムをインク流出開口51に近い高さ位置において傾斜した姿勢で取り付けるようにするとよい。このように構成すると、検知が確実であるとともに低いインク面で信号を発生させることができる。

【0062】図15は上記の構成の一例を示すものである。図示するように、インク容器50にはその底面を一部傾斜させた器壁57が設けられ、この部分に圧力センサ56が取付けられる。圧力センサ56の取付け位置は、インク流出開口51より高い位置であって、かつなるべくインク流出開口51に近い高さに設定される。

【0063】ところで、インク容器50は、インクジェットノズルと一体的に組立てられ、移動主走査台に搭載されて往復動されることが多い。この場合、インク容器50が中空であると容器中でインクが激しく流動して攪拌され、空気導入口54からインクが流出したり、インク中に気泡が混入してしまう等の不具合が発生する。この不具合の発生を防止するために、インク容器50に連続気泡の発泡材を収容し、これによりインクの流動を防

止することが考えられている。

【0064】ところが上記発泡材が圧力センサ56のダイアフラムに接触していると、ダイアフラムの振動が抑制され、圧力センサ56として作動しなくなってしまう。このような障害が生じないようにするために、例えば図15に示すごとく圧力センサ56のダイアフラムに対応してメッシュからなるガード部材59を設けている。このガード部材59を設けたことにより、発泡材58は圧力センサ56のダイアフラムに直接接触しないようになる。また、ガード部材59はメッシュからなっているので、インクの流通は妨げられない。

【0065】このように構成すれば、発泡材58によってインクの波立ちは防止され、この波立ちによる障害の発生は防止されるとともに、圧力センサ56のダイアフラム部分にはインクしか直接接触しないので、精度よくインク残量を検知することができる。

【0066】

【発明の効果】以上詳述したように本発明は、隔壁により相互に分離されて圧力発生室を形成する細長い複数のチャネルを平行に配置し、これらのチャネルの一端側をノズル開口端とともに他端側をインク供給源に接続したヘッドと、このヘッドを記録媒体に対向させた状態に支持してこのヘッドを記録媒体に対し所定の走査方向に相対移動させる移動走査手段と、上記ヘッドの各チャネルを画信号に応動して駆動するヘッド駆動手段とを備えたインクジェットプリンタにおいて、上記ヘッドを、その各チャネルのノズル開口端が各チャネルの長手方向と直交する方向に対しドット密度に応じて設定した角度で傾斜する方向に配列されるように構成し、かつこのヘッドを、その各ノズル開口端が上記記録媒体に対し同一ギャップを保持して対向する状態に上記移動走査手段に支持させるように構成したものである。

【0067】したがって本発明によれば、簡単な加工を施すだけで同一のヘッドをドット密度の異なる複数種のプリンタに適用いることができ、これにより製作コストの低減を図り得るインクジェットプリンタを提供することができる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】本発明の第1の実施例に係わるインクジェットプリンタの全体構成を示す図。

【図2】図1に示したプリンタに使用されるヘッドの作製方法の説明に使用するための図。

【図3】図2に示した作製方法により作製されたヘッドユニットの構成を示す図。

【図4】図3に示したヘッドユニットを移動主走査台に取着した状態を示す側面図。

【図5】本発明の第2の実施例に係わるインクジェットプリンタの全体構成を示す図。

【図6】本発明の第3の実施例に係わるヘッドの構成を示す縦断面図。

【図7】本発明の第3の実施例に係わるヘッドの構成を示す側断面図。

【図8】本発明の第3の実施例に係わるヘッドの構成を示す平面図。

【図9】本発明の第4の実施例に係わるヘッドの構成を示す正面図。

【図10】本発明の第4の実施例に係わるヘッドを移動主走査台に取付けた状態を示す正面図。

【図11】本発明の第4の実施例に係わるヘッドの側面図。

【図12】ヘッドの回転およびノズル配列面の傾斜を説明するための図。

【図13】本発明の第5の実施例に係わるインク容器の構成を示す断面図。

【図14】圧力センサの構成の一例を示す回路図。

【図15】図13に示したインク容器をさらに改良した本発明の第6の実施例に係わるインク容器の構成を示す部分断面図。

【図16】従来のドットオンディマンド型のインクジェットプリンタヘッドの発熱抵抗体設置基板の構成を示す図。

【図17】従来のドットオンディマンド型のインクジェットプリンタヘッドの溝付きプレートの構成を示す図。

【図18】図16に示した発熱抵抗体設置基板と図17に示した溝付きプレートとを組み合わせて構成したヘッドの構成を示す斜視図。

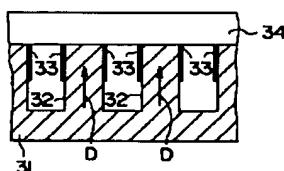
【図19】ピエゾ素子を使用した従来のドットオンディマンド型のインクジェットプリンタヘッドの構成を示す斜視図。

【符号の説明】

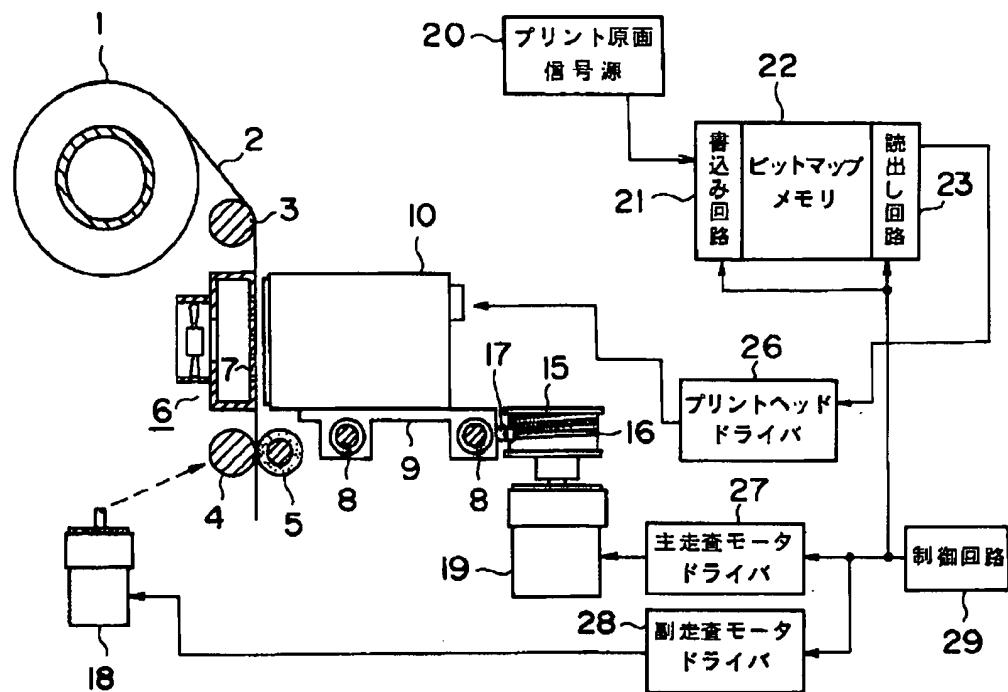
- 1…記録紙ロール
- 2…記録紙
- 3…ガイドローラ
- 4…搬送ローラ
- 5…ピンチローラ
- 6…吸引ボックス
- 7…ブラン
- 8…ガイドレール
- 9…移動主走査台
- 10…ヘッド
- 11…ヘッドユニット

| | |
|-----|---------------------|
| (8) | 12…側壁 |
| | 13…発熱抵抗体 |
| | 14…ノズル板 |
| | 15…ブーリ |
| | 16…ワイヤ |
| | 17…グリップ |
| | 20…プリント原画信号源 |
| | 21…書き込み回路 |
| | 22…ピットマップメモリ |
| 10 | 23…読み出し回路 |
| | 24…パルス補正指令回路 |
| | 26…プリントヘッドドライバ |
| | 27…主走査モータドライバ |
| | 28…副走査モータドライバ |
| | 29…制御回路 |
| | 30…ピエゾ素子を使用したヘッド |
| | 31…ピエゾシート |
| | 32…側壁 |
| | 33…電極 |
| 20 | 34…カバーシート |
| | 35…ノズルプレート |
| | 36…ノズル |
| | 37…インク供給溝 |
| | 38…インク供給口 |
| | 40…ノズル板 |
| | 41, 41'…プリントヘッドユニット |
| | 42…傾斜支持台 |
| | 50…インク容器 |
| | 51…インク流出開口 |
| 30 | 52…インクジェットノズル |
| | 53…キャップ |
| | 54…空気導入口 |
| | 55…フィルタ |
| | 56…圧電素子型圧力センサ |
| | 57…器壁 |
| | 58…発砲材 |
| | 59…ガード部材 |
| | 60…圧力センサの感知部 |
| | 61…圧電素子 |
| 40 | 62～64…電極 |

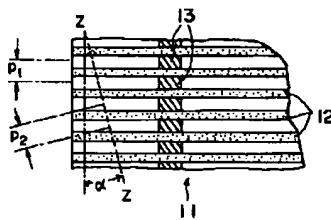
【図7】



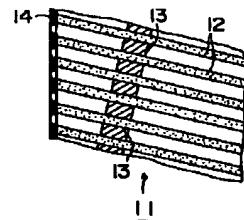
【図1】



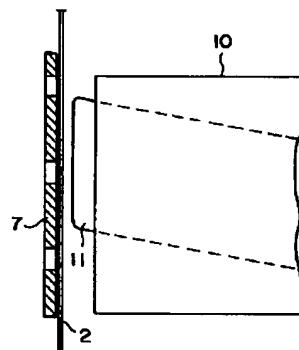
【図2】



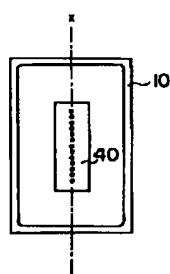
【図3】



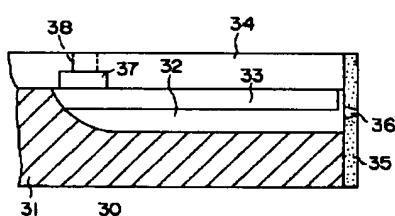
【図4】



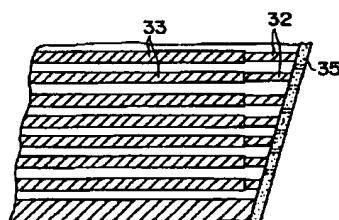
【図9】



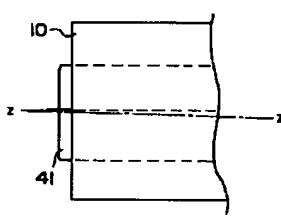
【図6】



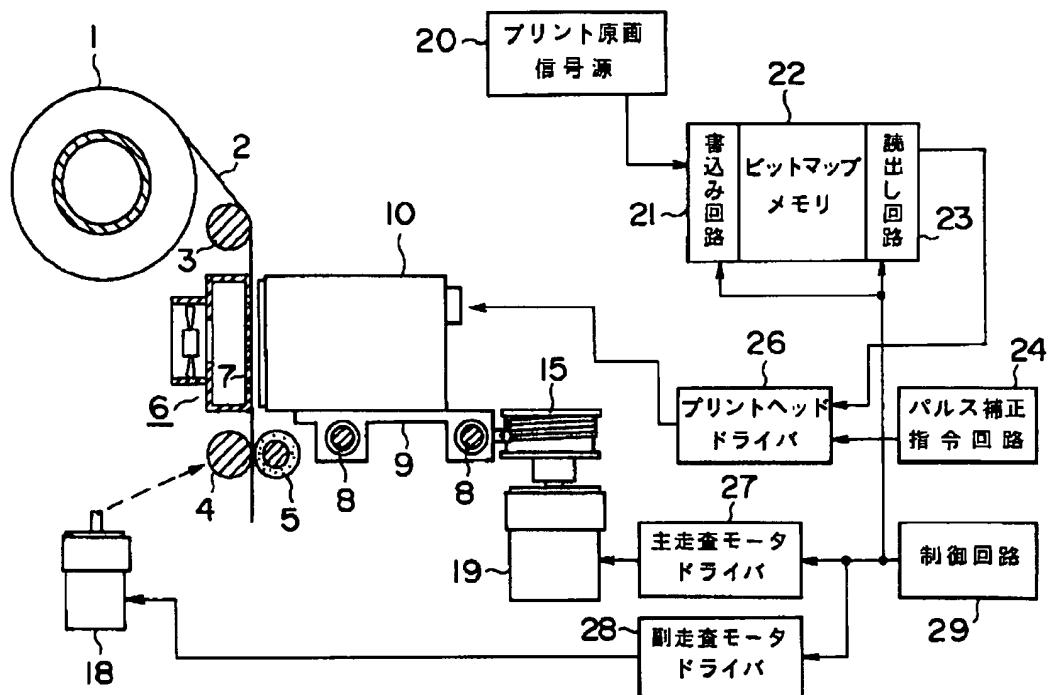
【図8】



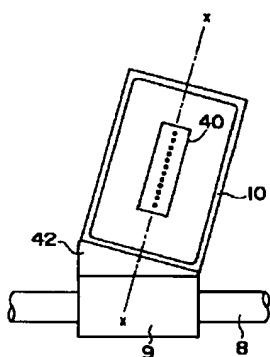
【図11】



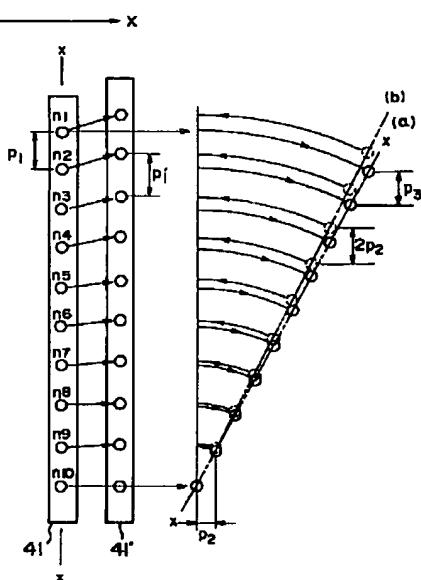
【図5】



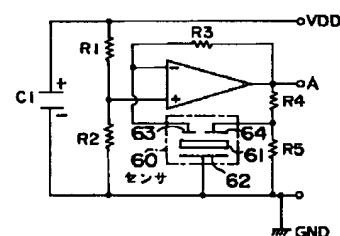
【図10】



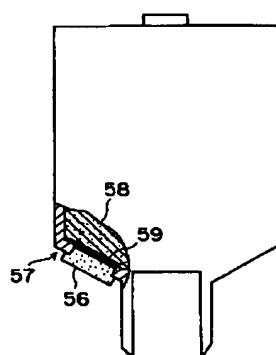
【図12】



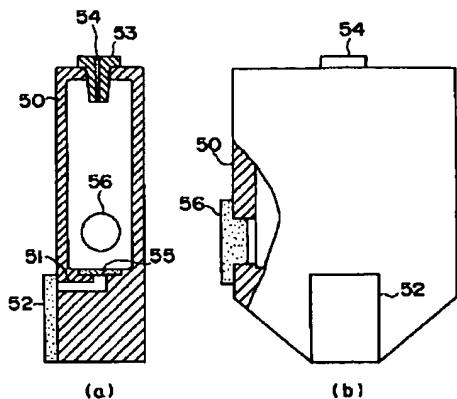
【図14】



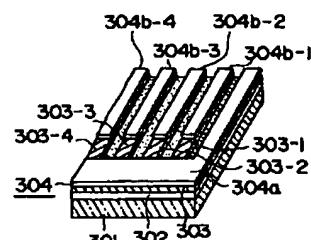
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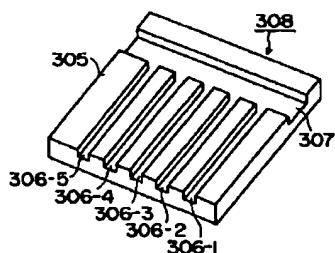
【図13】



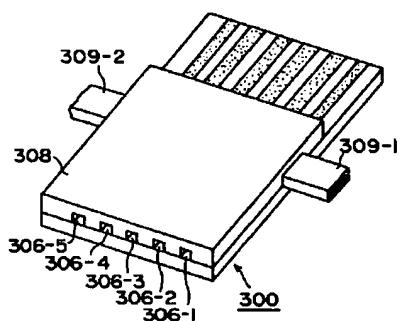
【図16】



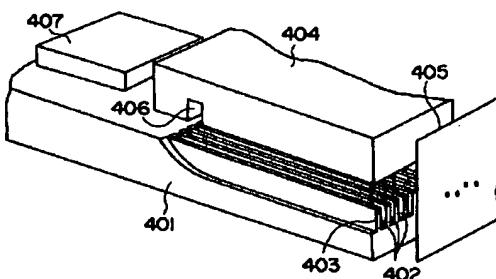
【図17】



【図18】



【図19】



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